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NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 37

23 August 1949

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1. Those present were as follows:

Dr. Appleton	State
Lt. Col. Ruwet	Army
Lt. Col. Conner	Army
Capt. Maher	Navy
Lt. Cdr. Nutt	Navy
Lt. Col. Wade	Air Force
Maj. Belongia	Air Force
25X1A9a	CIA (Chairman)
	CIA

2. The Chairman summarized the background of NIS classification policy as follows:

- a. No classification ceiling has ever been set.
- b. A standard classification of SECRET has been adopted for NIS binders, on the theory that most NIS will contain some SECRET material and that, on the other hand, little, if any, NIS will be classified higher than SECRET.
- c. It has been constantly stressed that overclassification should be rigorously avoided.
- d. Since some classifications may be revised downward with the passage of time, the final classification of NIS material should not be determined until the material has been finally prepared. This will tend to reduce the number of occasions on which NIS will require reclassification.

Because basic intelligence has a wide variety of legitimate users, it was hoped that it might be possible to avoid the TOP SECRET classification for portions of NIS. For a number of reasons beyond the control of contributors, however, this does not now appear feasible. For example, NIS may be based on material from combined sources who have mutually agreed to maintain the classification of the material. Should this material be classified TOP SECRET the contributor would not be authorized unilaterally to lower the classification. Nevertheless, to exclude TOP SECRET material from the NIS would often result in greatly detracting from the usefulness of the intelligence. Hence, TOP SECRET material should be freely used if it is necessary to tell the whole basic intelligence story. As a result of these considerations the following procedure

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relative to the TOP SECRET classification for NIS was adopted:

a. Contributors are always to endeavor to keep classification as low as possible.

b. Nevertheless, contributors are to use all necessary material, regardless of classification, in preparing NIS. They will then examine the finished section, chapter, or supplement as a whole and determine the lowest classification which may be accorded it. If no lower classification may properly be accorded, this classification will be TOP SECRET.

c. G/Ba will publish TOP SECRET material as TOP SECRET ANNEXES in separate TOP SECRET binders. Tables of Contents in the regular (SECRET) binders will be cross-referenced to the TOP SECRET ANNEXES.

At present, the dissemination requirements of State, Army, and Air Force for NIS in the TOP SECRET classification are the same as normal requirements. Only Navy's TOP SECRET requirements are lower than normal requirements. Navy is to re-examine its TOP SECRET requirements to determine whether or not they ought to be increased.

3. Copies of a tentative draft of an operating procedure for implementing a control system for material unreleasable [REDACTED] were distributed to the members. These draft copies will be considered and any proposed changes will be recommended at the next meeting. In the meantime, however, the provisions of tentative draft will be placed in effect immediately. 25X1X7

4. The question of transmittal of Chapters III, IV, VI, and IX of NIS to the Department of Commerce was taken up. Navy submitted an official statement regarding the matter. Army gave an indication of what the probable Army attitude would be. State and Air Force had no prepared statements. The discussion was broadened to cover the general matter of the procedure of release of NIS to non-IAC Agencies. It was decided that a draft of this procedure would be prepared by G/Ba and presented for consideration at the next meeting. As regards the Department of Commerce, the IAC Agencies concurred, in general, in the release of the chapters requested under assurance of CIA that the security classification of military information contained therein will be respected and maintained. Agencies reserve the right to withhold from the Department such of their NIS contributions as they may from time to time desire. For the record, State, Army, and Air Force are to submit to G/Ba statements in writing concerning the release of the material requested by the Department of Commerce.

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5. The photograph situation, brought up at NIS Committee Meeting No. 36 (See Paragraph 5 of the minutes thereof), was again discussed. The State member said that the National Geographic Society receives photographs from many commercial photographic agencies in the country but that the Society is not at liberty to pass these on to third parties. The Society will, however, give to the Graphics Register, CIA, a list of the names and addresses of these commercial agencies so that CIA may negotiate with them for photographs. The Army member said that ID maintains a photographic library, which is, however, far from complete; that this library is maintained principally by contributions from military attachés; that, of late, emphasis has been placed on arranging photographic files according to NIS needs; and that the other Intelligence Agencies have access to these files and to incoming photographs, which they see on the ID Reading Panel. The Navy and Air Force members said that the situations in their Agencies generally are similar to that of Army. The Chairman said that the Graphics Register, OCD, CIA, also has contact [redacted] with various commercial concerns, such as Life, and with the National Geographic Society and that the IAC Agencies have access to the central files and the procurement facilities of the Graphics Register. He did, however, undertake to indicate to OCD the opportunity described by the State member to obtain from the National Geographic Society the names and addresses of commercial concerns and to point out the far greater importance of photographs to basic intelligence than to other categories of intelligence.

6. The Chairman explained to the Committee the need of G/Ba to know in advance those NIS which will be completely excluded [redacted] so that large sums of money may not be [redacted] ss binders. He then inquired specifically regarding [redacted] #54 (Anglo-Egyptian Sudan), and #86 (Venezuela), parts of which have already been indicated as unreleasable. Members from the Armed Forces Agencies stated that none of their intelligence in NIS #1 or #54 would be releasable. The State member said that he saw no objection to the release of State-prepared elements of these NIS, except Chapter V (Political) of NIS #1. He added, however, that, in the interest of avoiding the embarrassment which might arise from disseminating [redacted] certain ragged fragments of NIS when the major portion thereof is withheld, State has no objection to withholding, also, State-prepared elements. It was then brought out that NIS #86 would be automatically withheld under SANACC policy (still in effect although SANACC has been abolished) which requires withholding [redacted] all intelligence on Western Hemisphere countries. In order that binder procurement may be facilitated as much as possible, it was requested that each Agency submit to G/Ba without delay a complete list of those of the 103 proposed NIS which will be entirely withheld [redacted].

7. Copies of an NIS Standard Operating Procedure prepared by Navy were distributed to the other members. This SOP sets forth clearly the

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responsibilities and functions of the Navy NIS Control Staff, Coordinating Staff, and Working Groups. An especially valuable feature of the SOP is the series of appended charts which show in detail the functions and relationships within the NIS organization framework of all components of the Navy Department concerned with NIS. It was pointed out that if each of the other IAC Agencies prepared a similar type of SOP the following benefits would be gained:

- a. New NIS personnel within the Agencies would be quickly and completely oriented and much lost motion would thereby be eliminated.
- b. The NIS Coordinator would be assisted in the meeting of his responsibilities.
- c. Other Agencies would be assisted in the conduct of inter-Agency relationships.
- d. The Chiefs of Intelligence and other high-level authorities would be given a clear understanding of the nature of the NIS Program and NIS Operations.

The members generally concurred in the idea. It was decided that the effectiveness of the SOP might be enhanced if it contained an opening statement setting forth the general nature of the NIS Program and Departmental responsibilities thereunder. The Chairman undertook to have such a statement drafted and distributed for consideration at the next meeting.

8. The Chairman summarized as follows the NIS production status for the period 1-19 August 1949:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Sec. Overdue from Prev. Mos.</u>	<u>Sec. on FY '50 Prod. Sched.</u>	<u>Total Req.</u>	<u>Act. Prod.</u>
State	85	29	114	6
Army*	37	19	56	16
Navy	3	1	4	3
Air Force	2	2	4	0
CIA (B/Ma)	0	0	0	0
TOTALS - - -	127	51	178	25

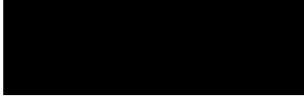
*Army production includes 5 sections of Supplement No. III, NIS 53 (Egypt) which are not included in the above requirement figures. NIS 53 (Sup. III) was dropped from the production schedule in

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February 1949 at the request of Army. G/Ba was advised at that time that Section 38 (Telecommunications-Strategic Outline) would cover the subject.

9. The next meeting was set for Tuesday, 30 August 1949, 1000 hours, at CIA, Room 2519.

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Distribution:

NIS Comm.
Members (4)

AD/ORE

Chief, B/Ma
Deputy, G/Ba
Liaison O, G/Ba
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